will meet the challenge of Satellite telecast of foreign T.V. network;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if nor, details of steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (e). Expansion of the Electronic Media is being carried out in a phased manner depending upon availability of adequate resources and *inter-se* priorities. It is the constant endeavour of AIR/Doordarshan to bring about qualitative improvement of programme content and format aslo as to sustain the interest of listeners/viewars, particularly to counter broadcasts/telecasts *via* foreign Satellites.

Performances of D.A.V.P.

6233. SHRI RABI BAY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be please to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to streamline and improve the performance of the Directorate of advertising and Visual Publicity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have proposal of upgrading the professional skills of the directorate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). Streamlining and improving the performance of all the media units including D.A.V.P. is an ongoing process.

(c) and (d). The personnel working in the various media units including D.A.V.P. are exposed to training Schemes, Workshops, Seminars etc. to improve their professional skills.

Iron ore Pelletisation in Karnataka

6234. SHRI G. MADEGOWDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal for approval of the Union Government for the setting up of an iron ore pelletisation unit at Hospet;

(b) if so, the capacity of the proposed plant; and

(c) the time by which the approval in likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Seepage and Water-Logging by Ganga, Bhakra and Indra Gandhi Canal

6235. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ganga, Bhakra and the Indra Gandhi Canals have caused excessive seepage and water logging at various places;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its impact of ecological balances and agricultural production; and

(d) the steps Central Government proposed to take to control excessive seepage and water-logging from these canals?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Water-logging due to seepage from Ganga, Bhakra and Indira Gandhi Canals has been noticed. Main reasons for such water-logging include problem of drainage due to hydrological and topographical conditions and unscientific water management practices. Water-logging induces salinisation resulting in reduction of agricultural production.

(d) The measures which could reduce the problem of water-loggging such as improved water management practices, conjunctive use of surface and ground water, wherever feasible and adequate drainage systems, are being encouraged.

Travel by Foreign Tourists in Inner Line Areas

6236 SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government have one unified policy for developing tourism in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any restriction of foreign tourists to travel within inner line areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Various factors like proximity to the international border, general law and order situation and sensitivity of the areas are the reasons for imposing restrictions on the entry and stay of foreigners under Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958 and Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order 1963. Following areas have been declared as Restricted or Protected areas: Sikkim, Certain Parts along the international border of J&K, U.P., Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan whole of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Foreign nationals cannot enter or stay in these areas without obtaining necessary permits from the competent authorities.

Demand of Pig Iron in West Bengal

6237. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated demand and production of pig iron in the country;

(b) whether there is any gap between the demand and supply in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether West Bengal's quota of domestic pig iron for the small scale foundry units has been reduced by nearly 50%;

(e) whether there is any proposal to allot more quantum of pig iron to West Bengal; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The estimated annual demand of pig iron in the country in 1991-92 is 19.2 lakh tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.